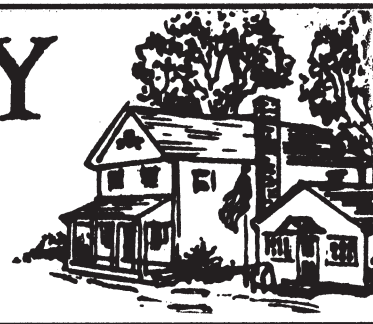




MONTEREY NEWS

May 2010
VOLUME XL · Number 5



The Town

by Sue Protheroe & Will Marsh

Join the Memorial Day Parade!

The annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, call Scott Jenssen at 528-1260. The parade will be made up of floats, scout troops, veterans, and any other groups who would like to march. If you have an idea, give Scott a call!

Town Meeting

The annual town meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the firehouse, on

Saturday, May 1, preceded at 9:15 by a special meeting to consider three articles to fund the cemetery road, veterans' benefits, and the sand and salt account.

The Finance Committee and Select Board hosted an informational meeting about the town meeting warrant at the firehouse on April 23, which unfortunately was poorly attended (only about thirty-five people showed up). The item most discussed was the special article to see if Monterey will approve a new agreement for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. As Select Board member Jon Sylbert explained, two of the key changes have to do with how the district

will be funded. The existing agreement for how the operating budget was apportioned among the five member towns, which was based on student population of each town and was to expire in 2011, was abruptly abrogated two years ago when Sheffield refused to continue abiding by it; after the member towns could not agree on how to proceed, the commonwealth stepped in and directed that the apportionment be done by the so-called statutory method. Under the new agreement, if approved, both capital expenses and the annual operating budget will be apportioned according to the statutory method, a formula based on the number of students from each member town,



Joe Baker

Bonner McAllester relating some beaver lore on the April 24th "Meet the Swamp Walk" on the Community Center land.

the average income of each town, and the assessed property wealth of each town. Under this method, Monterey's share of the operating budget would increase by about 1½ percent to about 11 percent of the total, but our share of future capital expenditures would decrease from about 21 percent to around 11 percent.

How the budget is apportioned has been controversial in the past, but the third major change proposed under the school district agreement is the real hot potato this year. Under the existing agreement, no school could be closed without the approval of all five towns; under the new agreement, if approved, a school could be closed if four out of the five district towns approved, so Monterey's beloved school could be closed without our consent. At the informational meeting, Bruce Chumsky, chairman of the Egremont Select Board, was given permission to speak, and he stated forcefully that Egremont has the same concern about their school.

The new agreement must be approved by town meetings of all five member towns; if it is not approved, then the issue will go back to a committee that includes one Select Board member from each town and the chairman of the district school

committee. The Egremont Select Board did not put the proposal on their May annual town meeting warrant, feeling the timing was too rushed to give it due consideration. They will have a special town meeting in the fall to consider the issue, unless it is made moot by the rejection by another town at its May town meeting.

Among other items to be considered at Monterey's May 1st annual town meeting will be votes on an article requesting funding for a proposed dog park at the Wilson McLaughlin property and another article requesting funding for a driveway and parking area on the property. Another article of interest requests the town to begin discussions with other Western Massachusetts towns about the possibility of entering an inter-municipal agreement to establish a universal, financially self-sustaining broadband communications network (see article on page 4). Monica Webb, Monterey's representative on WiredWest, the network of citizens representing forty-five towns working on the broadband issue, explained the project at an informational meeting at the firehouse on April 24. Unfortunately, this meeting was also very poorly attended, with fewer than twenty people turning out. Come on, citizens of Monterey, time to get involved!

The total proposed FY2011 town budget is \$3,206,708.00, an increase of \$138,256.00 over last year.

Thanks to Richard Chevrolet

Richard and Mary Anne Jaffee, owners of Richard Chevrolet, presented a \$3500 check for the repair of a truck sold to the town in 2007. Mr. Jaffe said if he had known about the problem earlier, all repairs would have been covered.

The Jaffees, homeowners in Monterey, have been very generous in supporting town organizations and functions, including the Police Department and Fire Department. Their contributions to the town have always been greatly appreciated.

Operations

At the April 5th Select Board meeting, bids from Kurtz Inc. of Westfield, Park Lane Construction and Development of Clyde, New York, and Gardner Construction & Industrial Services of Chicopee for the construction of the salt shed at the town garage were opened. The bids ranged from \$293,436 to \$437,436. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reviewed the bids, and at the April 12th meeting, following his recommendation, the low bid, from Park Lane Construction, was accepted. Construction will begin soon.

The fence at the town beach is in need of repair; Forbes will oversee the needed work. The bench and picnic table at the dam are broken and rotted; it was agreed that this project falls under the purview of the Park Commission.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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References



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THE MONTEREY GENERAL STORE Summer Music Series

**MAY: 21: ALLAN DEAN JAZZ TRIO • 28: WANG DANG DOODLE BLUES
& GOSPEL REVUE • JUNE: 4: DAVID REED • 11: MITZI PILLOW
18: PARADOCS JAZZ TRIO • 25: HUNGER MOUNTAIN BOYS
JULY: 2: JOEL SCHICK • 9: MARK CALDWELL • 16: MOUNTAIN
LAUREL BAND • 23: PETER POIRIER BLUES • 31: COMMON THREAD
AUGUST: 7: ROBIN O'HERIN • 13: BOBBY SWEET
20: MOONSHINE HOLLER • 27: BERNICE LEWIS**

SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH: MAY 30: MARK CALDWELL 11-1

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT • 7 - 9 • NO COVER

Conditions at the transfer station were noted to have deteriorated, especially at the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop, however, is not really the responsibility of the attendant. Concerned citizens who would like to participate in the management of the Swap Shop at the transfer station should contact Melissa Noe at the Town Hall. Senior citizens may use this opportunity to work off some of their real estate taxes.

Forbes reported that the winter just ended had about a foot less snow than the previous one, and that about 40 percent less salt and sand were used.

Building Commissioner

The Select Board voted to approve new a contract with Building Commissioner Don Torrico, renewable every year. Torrico presented the Board with an updated job description, and a \$900 salary increase was approved to compensate for camp inspections; previously the inspector was paid for this work by a fee for each visit.

Torrico said the proposed dog park (as reported above, funding is being requested in a special article on the town meeting warrant) would require a special permit since it would be the only town park that allows dogs.

Police Blotter

- Assisted Fire Department, Main Road.
- Abandoned 911 calls; misdialed on Mt. Hunger Road, phone line issues on



Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier, who is retiring as of May 1, received a proclamation on April 12 for her many years of service to the Town of Monterey, presented by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

- Brewer Circle, phone issues on Gould Road; another at Gould Farm.
- Located missing person at boat launch.
- False fire alarms at Eaton Road and Sylvan Road.
- Vehicle stuck in mud, New Marlboro Road.
- Assisted Great Barrington Police Department with a burglar alarm.
- Assisted Fire Department with a medical and fire call.
- Assisted Otis Police Department with a vehicle stop.

- Tree across wires, Brett Road.
- Loose dog, Corashire Road
- Summons, Mt. Hunger Road

Town Basketball Court

There have been extensive discussions about the proposed second basketball court. It was agreed that the proposed court, to be called "Jamie's Court" in memory of Jamie Bogdanoff, be voted on at a special town meeting once all the issues are resolved.



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WiredWest Plans Broadband Connection for All

Frustrated waiting for high-speed Internet? We are too, and in 2009, representatives from the nearly fifty Western Massachusetts towns with limited or no access to high-speed Internet came together to figure out how to solve this problem, once and for all. An organization called WiredWest was formed, made up of representatives from the different towns, and has been working on a plan to build a *community-owned, open-access, fiber-to-the-home network to every Western Massachusetts home, business, and institution* that wants service and is located in the target region.

What will this network mean for you and your community? It will mean affordable access to the best quality telecommunications network in the world today. It will provide us with the same education, health care, employment, business, public safety, information, and entertainment opportunities that our urban counterparts enjoy. It will give us a telecommunications highway that will serve our communities not just tomorrow, but for the foreseeable future. And it will mean employing people

in our communities to build and operate the network, keeping much of the generated revenue in our communities.

Rural areas around the country are facing this same problem. Private companies have determined it's just not profitable enough, given their business model, to provide service to everyone. This disparity is becoming an increasing concern, as access to high-speed Internet has become a necessity to business, education, healthcare, public safety and government operations. Without intervention, the gap between those who do and those who do not have high-speed Internet access will become increasingly detrimental to those on the wrong side of the digital divide.

What about DSL, Cable, & Wireless?

Even towns and areas of towns that do have access are working on last generation technologies like DSL, cable, and wireless—technologies that will not support the growing role the Internet is playing in people's daily lives. The reason the need is increasing and many people's last-generation "high-speed Internet" is getting slower is the growing development and use of modern applications that use large amounts of bandwidth, meaning they require a lot of data to flow at a certain rate from the Internet to your computer. The FCC estimates bandwidth requirements in the US are currently increasing by an

order of magnitude every two years. So the reality of even today's needs is that technologies like DSL are much slower now than last year—and will continue to decline. Think of it as using a single pipe to provide water to several homes, with every home's water requirements increasing by 50 percent a year. How much longer will it take to fill your sink?

Why Public Intervention Is Necessary

Let's get back to why we don't have universal high-speed Internet service today and what to do about it. The situation is strikingly similar to the 1930s, when private electric companies deemed rural areas not profitable enough to provide electricity. It was the combination of unmet rural need and private market reluctance that led to government intervention with the Rural Electrification Act of 1935.

There has been some government intervention with enabling broadband access as well, although not the extent that was done with rural electrification. The state and federal government have pledged resources to help make it happen.

In 2008, at the urging of Governor Patrick, the Massachusetts legislature approved up to \$40M in bond money to bring ubiquitous broadband to the unserved and underserved towns of Massachusetts. That's not enough to solve the problem, but it is a good start. The federal



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SATURDAY MAY 29TH

8PM

\$15

Val at 80 - Val Coleman's stories, gossips and poems about his crazy life starting in small town Illinois, through his adventures in the big city and ending in Sandisfield trying to explain how it feels to live 80 years.

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Pam Johnson's Wall Quilts are inspired by her garden in Monterey.

government has also stepped in, since this issue affects the US's global competitiveness and opportunities for its citizens. In 2009, the stimulus act dedicated \$7.4B to broadband. Massachusetts applied for a portion, but didn't get it in the first round of awards; it is applying again for \$45M in the second round, to bring fiber to every town center and western Massachusetts anchor institutions.

So how does this fit with what WiredWest is proposing? Both state and federal programs are focused on so-called "middle mile" capacity – the "main arteries," so to speak. If the Massachusetts proposal is funded, it will bring wholesale connectivity into the center of every town. However, the commonwealth's application does not guarantee "last mile" service to individual homes and businesses.

It's certainly possible that some companies may use the state's middle mile to expand their service range to a few more people, using last generation technologies. However, experience elsewhere has shown that private providers do not see the return in offering even second-rate access to all homes. This is why we believe strongly in taking matters into our own communities' hands, taking a direct role in shaping the solution and ensuring scarce resources are used efficiently to build a network that serves the current and future needs of our citizens.

So What's the Solution?

The WiredWest group strongly believes we cannot wait any longer for a solution to connect western Massachusetts to the rest of the world. We have talked to existing providers; we've worked with state agencies; we've spoken to national broadband experts and operating fiber networks around the country. All of it has led us to the same conclusion: As a community, we need to take matters into our own hands.

The network WiredWest is proposing will be built according to the following principles:

1. Financially self-sustaining

We are proposing a business model that raises money independently and supports itself from subscriber revenues.

2. Universal

Offering affordable access to state-of-the-art connectivity to ALL who want it.

3. Based on the reliable, robust, future-proof technology of fiber

Building a high-capacity, universal network for our region is essential, but upfront costs are also high. Thus, the network must last a long time and be capable of highly scalable, economic upgrades as needs increase. The only technology capable of delivering on this premise is fiber to the home. For more details on fiber, please see our website at www.wired-west.net.

4. Community-Owned

As compared to the short-term profitability requirements of private companies, a municipal capital investment can be amortized over a longer period of time. Municipalities are also driven by the "common good" principle of providing critical infrastructure to their entire constituency. This not only provides the constituency with the essential tools to prosper, but also becomes a regional asset that employs people in the construction and operation of the network, and pays revenues for services back to the region. In fact, the Federal Communications Commission has endorsed municipal broadband as a "best practice for bringing broadband to underserved communities."

5. Open access

Also known as "common carriage," this means all providers (ISPs, telecoms, etc.,) will be given equal access to the network for the provision of services, which fosters competition, helping to keep rates affordable and service quality high.

What You Can Do

At the Monterey annual town meeting on May 1, Article 26 on the Town Warrant directs the Select Board to enter into discussions with other Western Massachusetts towns about creating a formal regional fiber network. Please vote yes on May 1 and secure our town and citizens a place in the world of tomorrow.

— Monica Webb



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Memorial Day, May 31, 2010

A commemoration service will be held at the Veterans Memorial Park on the corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road for all Veterans and friends at 11:00 a.m. This will be followed by a parade at 1:00 p.m. in the center of Monterey. Food will be served to all at the Firehouse Pavilion after the parade.

Please attempt to come to both events to honor all veterans. This has been a tradition in our town for many years.

The Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee will accept donations (tax deductible) to provide for additional trees and other expenses to improve the appearance and maintenance of our Veterans Memorial Park. Our committee will appreciate your donations, which should go to the Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee, Town of Monterey, P.O. Box, Monterey, MA 01245.

Thank you all.

— Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee: Dean Amidon, chmn., Frank D'Amato, Arnold Hayes, Gige O'Connell, Ray Tryon

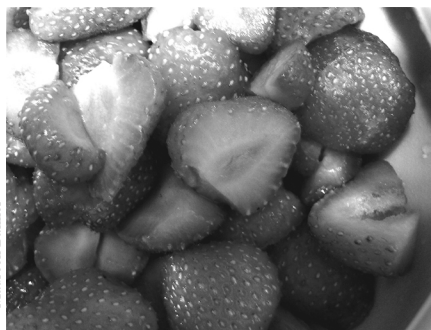


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Maureen Banner

Monterberry Celebration May 29

Where can you celebrate the start of summer in the best town in Berkshire County, hear the most marvelous music, see the greatest family-friendly entertainment, and eat artisanal fresh strawberry shortcake all FREE? Right here in Monterey.

Fresh authentic delicious strawberry shortcakes will be created by the Berkshire's renowned Sweetish Baker. The entertainment program, selected by Joe Baker, will include a fabulous folk group and the astonishing 75 Ivy Vine Players. "The Ivy Vine Players employs over 75 puppets and only one human being." (www.grianmacgregor.com)

The Monterey Cultural Council invites everyone to this fabulous free (and close to home) celebration on Saturday, May 29, starting at 6 p.m. in the Monterey Meetinghouse (Church).

For more information contact:
John Heffernan, 644-9235, jeh111@juno.com
Maureen Banner, 528-0421, mmbanner@gmail.com
Kit Patten, 528-3798.

Monterey School Has Openings for Students

The Monterey School still has openings for next year. It will be a kindergarten class with a teacher student ratio of 1:3 or 1:4. If you know anyone who has a child going into kindergarten (turning 5 years old by December 31, 2010), pass on the word that it is a special little school with lots of learning and fun.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic the children will have art, music and gym. In the past year they also took part in ice skating at our local rink and planting flowers at the community garden. Every other week the children take a trip to the Monterey Library and have story time with Kate Basler. Nutritious lunches are provided by the Monterey General Store.

Children from many towns are welcome. We have had them "choice in" before from as far away as Becket and Sheffield. If you wish to register your child, call Undermountain Elementary at 229-8754 and speak with the principal's office at ext. 377. If you want to visit the school, call there directly at 528-3693.

Please call Mary Makuc if you have any trouble registering or any questions. The phone number is 528-5834.



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Community Center News

After many meetings and much behind-the-scenes planning, the new Community Garden was launched on the ground the third weekend in April. Mark Little came with the tractor and tiller for another pass over the plots, Joe Baker brought an unwieldy ditcher from Taylor Rental, and gardeners turned out to lay out the fence, dig post holes, and puzzle over the ditcher when it wouldn't start and then to fix it when it popped its chain (WAY heavier than the chain on a bike or a saw).

That was Friday. On Saturday morning twenty-five people came for a grand swamp walk around the beaver ponds down the hill to the south. At 2:00 p.m. gardeners gathered in the church basement to draw lots for their plots. Now those rectangles on the grid have names attached to them, and the gardeners know who their neighbors will be for the summer. Some folks are sharing a plot, and some are pitching in to work together to raise vegetables for the Food Pantry.

During the plot-lot meeting, Ruth Green passed out seeds donated by High Mowing School and by Seeds for Change. There were visions of carrots, melons, sunflowers, pumpkins, and more. Then the new gardeners walked together up the road to view their plots for the first time.

Some dug in right away, sorting out little grass roots and big rocks from their plots. Others wondered when to plant what. There are some experienced gardeners in the group who will give advice, and Ruth will be on hand every other Saturday to answer questions as she works on her own plot.

Jen and Jamie have donated their trailer as a tool-shed, and Bonner and Joe put one of their off-season sap tanks in place for dipping out water for transplanting and for watering in general. It's big enough to climb into on hot days, too.

The wire fence is set below ground to foil the woodchucks and bunnies, with solar-powered electric lines up higher to keep out tall, leaping herbivores. Shaylan Burkhart set nearly all the cedar posts single-handedly with his two-handed post-hole digger. Bonner and Joe back-filled the fence where it is below grade.



Guys with machines: Joe Baker digs the trench for the Community Garden varmint fence while Mark Little tills the plots.

Ruth broadcast creeping fescue on the paths and then spread golden straw mulch, which defines the 8 x 16 foot plots. There are photos of all this on the Community Center website at CCMonterey.org, and anyone wanting to join the fun can get in touch that way. Three plots are still available.

There will be daily digging and dreaming from now on, sometimes in the early morning for a solo gardener, sometimes in prearranged meetings of friends. Bonner and Glynis could not tear themselves away on Saturday until they made a deal to leave at the same time.

The next event at the Community Center will be the plant sale on Saturday, May 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Steven Enoch and

the Gould Farm garden crew have started seeds for us in their greenhouse, and these plants will be sold to raise money for the fence and other supplies we've needed for the garden. Anyone can come buy plants, and some will be put right into the ground at the Community Garden.

When you come, please park along New Marlborough Road and walk up the old driveway to the plant sale. Plan to stay to admire the garden, the fields, the promising Community Center farmhouse, and the swamp. Check out the site for the proposed dog romping park. Bring a picnic and a towel and take a dip in the sap tank.

— Bonner McAllester
☸

*
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*

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Bidwell House Invites Volunteers

The Bidwell House Museum is seeking volunteers in several areas:

Township No. 1 Day, Saturday, July 3rd, 1–4:30 p.m.: A short-term commitment, guaranteed to be a fun day. We need help with general setup and running of the day, and we would love someone to lead children's and youth activities (crafts, a ball game, a treasure hunt). This is a great opportunity for high school students seeking community service hours as well.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Join the Garden Angels! Saturdays at 9 a.m. for bagels, coffee, and gardening fun, led by Ruth Green. A wonderful opportunity to be with a group of neighbors, learn more about gardening, and help make the museum's heirloom vegetable garden into the beautiful and special exhibit for visitors from near and far that it is every year. We may start a Thursday group as well. Please call if you are interested.

Become a Museum Docent! If you would like to learn about Monterey colonial history, enjoy meeting people and giving tours, please join us! I would love to hear from you.

— Barbara Palmer, 413-528-6888, bidwellhouse@gmail.com



The Bidwell House Museum Events 2010

The Bidwell House Museum is pleased to announce its 2010 season program. The museum is celebrating the 260th anniversary of the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell's arrival in Monterey/Tyringham this year, as well as the 20th anniversary of the opening of the house and grounds as a museum. We invite all residents of Monterey and friends to join us this summer!

Sunday, May 30: Opening Reception

Blessing of the House and Dedication of the Jack Jefferson Memorial Benches with the Revs. Elizabeth Goodman and Janet McKinstry. 3 p.m.

Monday, May 31: Opening day.

The museum is open all season Thursday through Monday, tours of the historic 1750s house on the hour. Early farm and

garden tools exhibit, wooded trails, flower and heirloom vegetable gardens on 192-acre grounds. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday, June 12: History Talk

Michael White of Michael White Contractors in Mill River, "Restoring the 1740s Deacon Hale House" on his fascinating year-long project at the historic Monterey home. 10 a.m.–noon, picnic lunch available.

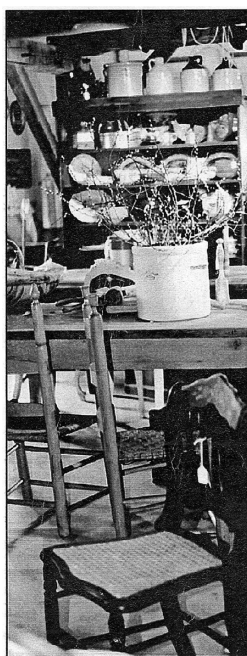
Saturday, June 26: History Talk

Yale Professor John Demos, "The Lost World of Early America: Rhythms and Regularities of Daily Life in the 1700s." 10 a.m., Union Church in Tyringham, Main Rd, Tyringham.

Saturday, July 3: Township No. 1 Day

A community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Tours, live music by local musicians, children's activities, pie-baking contest, antiques appraisals featuring Charles Flint of Charles Flint Antiques; Royal Hemlock Trail walk led by Dr. Richard Greene; "Colonial Gardening" talk by certified horticulturist and landscape architect Ruth Green; "Early Settlement and Land History" talk by Land Planner Rob Hoogs; and more. For details and individual event times, please check www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call 413-528-6888.

Supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council. 1–4:30 p.m. Free.



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Saturday, July 10: History Talk

Yale Professor John Demos, "The Lost World of Early America: Social Life, Social Conventions, and Rules in the 1700s." 10 a.m., Union Church in Tyringham, Main Rd, Tyringham.

Saturday, July 24: Stone Walls

"Building a Traditional New England Stone Wall": a hands-on workshop with Roger Tryon. Bring work gloves, wear boots, and learn this ancient craft. 10 a.m.–noon, picnic lunch available.

Saturday, July 31: History Talk

"Housewives, Midwives, and Doctoresses: Women in Early American Medicine," talk by Yale history professor Rebecca Tannenbaum. 10 a.m.–noon, picnic lunch available.

Saturday, August 7: Garden Party

At historic Fiddletop. Live music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction: "Antiques, Treasures and Pleasures." Fiddletop is the former summer residence of Conductor Eugene Ormandy. Party benefits the historic 1750s Bidwell House Museum. 4–7 p.m., Wellman Road, Monterey.

Saturday, August 14: History Talk

Yale Professor John Demos, "The Lost World of Early America: Ways and Means of Communication in the 1700s."

10 a.m., Union Church in Tyringham, Main Rd, Tyringham.

Saturday, August 28: History Talk

Yale Professor John Demos, "The Lost World of Early America: Religion, Magic, Witchcraft, and "Wonders" in the 1700s." 10 a.m., Union Church in Tyringham, Main Rd, Tyringham.

Saturday, Sept. 4: Town Cemeteries

"Monterey Cemeteries and Grave Markers," talk and guided tour by Monterey historian and genealogist Cynthia Hoogs. 10 a.m.–noon, picnic lunch available.

Saturday, October 2: History Walk

Historic Stone Wall Walk with Land Planner and author of the Bidwell House Museum Land History Rob Hoogs. 10 a.m.–noon; picnic lunch available.

Sunday, October 3

260th anniversary of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell's ordination!

Saturday, October 9: Pumpkin Fest

A family event with fun-filled activities for children of all ages. Hosted by the Garden Angels and Ruth Green. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Monday, October 11: History Walk

Columbus Day Celebration of Massachusetts Archaeology Month: Local

Attention Softball Players

The Monterey Sunday Softball Association is seeking adult softball players for games held at Greene Park behind Town Hall every Sunday and holidays. Pregame practice begins at 9:30 a.m. and game time is at 10:30. Our season runs from April through November.

historian George Emmons will lead a walk to the site of the historic Meeting House and to the intriguing stone cairns. 10 a.m. Season-closing reception with refreshments to follow.

Saturday, November 27:**Thanksgiving in New England**

Benefit party for the museum with live music, refreshments, auction. 4–7 p.m.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

In a fit of conviction that I would become a good steward of my hardwood floors, I bought a Swiffer. As you may know, a Swiffer is a revolutionary cleaning tool designed to give us a deep clean on virtually any surface in our homes. Part broom, part mop, it has a flat plastic head to which you can attach a Wet Cloth or a Dry Cloth and which is itself attached to a pole so you reach from floor to ceiling without bending or stretching. Use the Wet Cloth (which is to be spelled with capital letters) to get a deeper clean than with a mop and bucket due to its ability to dissolve dirt and grime, to trap it in the cloth, and thus to lock it away forever. Use the Dry Cloth (again, to be capitalized) for its great dirt-grabbing texture to pick up 50 percent more dirt, dust, and hair than a broom. Whichever you choose, the Swiffer Sweeper 360-degree-swivel head cleans deeper into corners than a mop or broom, giving you a truly deep clean you'll love.

I, however, came to hate my Swiffer, yet not for its failure to live up to its many promises, which I wouldn't know since I never used it. I hated it for its presence in my home and its reminding me of all that I mean to be yet fail to live up to.

But it didn't start out that way. It started at home and handy in the hall closet. But I had to move it to the basement when Tobias, our firstborn, learned how to walk and seemed especially drawn to the hall closet and all that was within. When he got his hands on the Swiffer, he would swing it around, knocking mugs off tables, dogs off chairs, and pictures off mantles, and getting it away from him proved more than I could bear on a daily basis. So I hid it in the basement. In time, his obsession with the hall closet passed, and it moved back upstairs. But then came Jack, and there went the Swiffer back to its dark corner downstairs.

It kept company with things left over from the house's previous owners—old cans of paint and scraps of pressboard, bent curtain rods, and closet poles all cut to the wrong size for any closet I was aware of. Finally, last summer I got around to some spring cleaning, four years and one season later than planned. The old paint would go. The bent rods would go. And, at long last, I had to admit, the Swiffer also should go.

I hate throwing things away. I especially hate throwing something away that I scarcely used. It seems there are some things you buy knowing you'll just throw them away. You do it on a whim. You do it on vacation—when you're feeling open to new possibilities. You do it when you're with friends who swear it looks really

good on you. I'm at least getting better at recognizing those things before I actually make them my own. I mean, am I really going to wear that Stewart plaid headband or those striped tights? Am I really going to use that avocado all-in-one peeler/pitter/slicer? Really, how hard is it manually to move your toothbrush across the surface of your teeth, or do you need the toothbrush to have electric power? And how many cleaning tools can a person who hates to clean really need?

I had three piles going this summer as I cleared out—one of things to keep, one of things to throw away, and one of things to pass along to the Christian Center in Pittsfield, an organization that stands humbly on the frontlines of poverty in Berkshire County. The pass-along pile was mostly of baby gear we no longer needed, but there were some clothes and a few kitchen items that almost anyone would find useful—measuring cups, a coffemaker, Tupperware and more Tupperware. The garbage pile had two subpiles—one to be burnt and one to be dumped. The Swiffer, all plastic, was to be dumped.

I brought it to the garage where, sharing a bay, my car and the garbage can both were wide open for loading. I put the Swiffer in the can and then imagined it sticking out the top while waiting at the foot of my driveway—bearing witness to my folly for all the neighborhood to see. I imagined it hydraulically dumped and

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crushed into the depths of the truck—the sturdy pole broken and the flat of eternal plastic cracked so now even more useless. And it pained me: the waste of it, and not just in regard to the Swiffer but to our whole culture. It pained me, that if we spend our money on what we know will soon be garbage, then what would feel to have any value at all? Thinking, pained, on this for a moment, I finally dragged the overweight garbage can to the foot of my driveway and then drove my overweight SUV to Pittsfield, Swiffer included. I'd let someone else throw it away.

When I reached the Christian Center, there were, as usual, people around, sitting on the steps, milling about on the sidewalk, coming in and out of the wide swinging door. Also as usual, several people offered to help with my haul—a few trips in and out. When I had just one more armful, I thanked everyone and said I could take it from here. I grabbed the Swiffer in one hand and a half-empty shopping bag in the other, and headed up the path to the door, which swung suddenly out and open. “Hey!” A tall, weathered man standing now on the porch arrested me with his voice. He broke into a not-so-toothy smile and hollered, “Is that a Swiffer?”

“Yes,” I said.

“Are you giving it away?” he asked.

“Yes,” I said.

“Can I have it?” he asked.

“Yes,” I said.

“I just moved into a new apartment,” he said. “It has hardwood floors and my girlfriend keeps saying, ‘I want a Swiffer! I want a Swiffer!’”

“Take it to her,” I said. “Please.” I was practically on my knees, goose-bumped and overjoyed.

So he took it from me and carried it away down the street.

Redemption is one of those high-minded topics the church writes creeds about. It's a term that shows up regularly in our prayers, and is used as a title for the Godhead, who is said to be Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of the world. But I'll admit, I never had much understanding of it until recently, when it's become one of my most hoped for aspects of God's reign.

Imagine a realm in which nothing goes to waste. Imagine a realm in which everything has value, everything has intrinsic worth. Amidst our culture of such unbearable waste, amidst an era that has so often likened our world to a wasteland and for real historic cause, amidst this generation that is so “over” so much—imagine having such eyes to see as the redeemer sees.

Really, try it.

— Elizabeth Goodman



Center for Peace through Culture at May 19 Potluck

The April Community Potluck brought a lively discussion about our new Monterey Community Center Garden. Many thanks to Shirley Olds, Joe Baker, Bonner MacAllester, and especially Ruth Green, who the other members of the committee say is doing most of the work! There are still a few plots left in the garden.

For the May 19th Potluck, we have several board members of the Center for Peace through Culture, an international nonprofit educational organization based in Monterey. Barbara Boughton is the executive director, and Kathi Frome, Judith Bach, Nanette Hucknall, Lorraine Lippe, and Joan McVicar are some of the board members. They are excited to report about their current peace initiatives: the Green-agers, Monterey Meets Ngalla/People to People Project, The CPC Toolbox, and the planning of a Peace Conference at the Hancock Shaker Village. They will also be leading us in a group conference on “Living Peace: What Peace means to Me.”

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, May 19, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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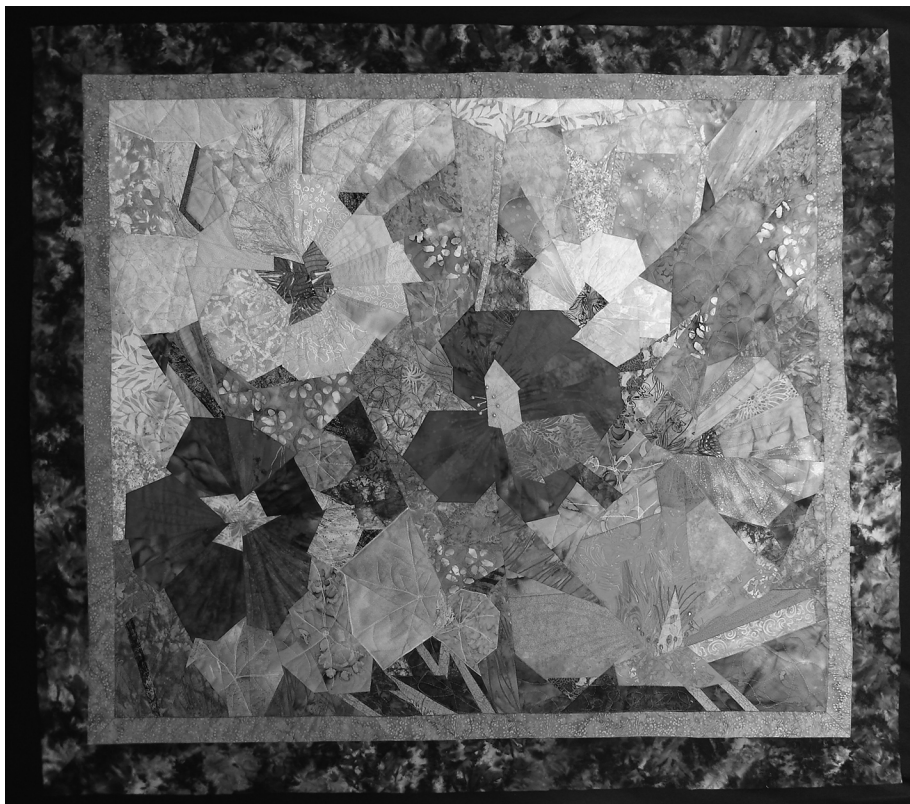


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Pam Johnson's Quilt Chosen for International Quilting Competition

Monterey quilter Pamela Johnson was selected as a semifinalist for the 2010 AQS Quilt Show & Contest, April 21–24, at the Paducah Expo Center in Paducah, Kentucky. She has been chosen to display her quilt *Nasturtiums* (above), along with 386 others in the annual contest, now in its 26th year. Three quilting authorities judged this elite group in Paducah, awarding first, second and third place prizes in fifteen categories, along with nine overall awards.

Quilts were entered in this international contest from forty-seven U.S. states and ten other countries. The quilt artists employ a wide variety of techniques and design methods ranging from traditional pieced patterns to original painted and embellished motifs.

Nasturtiums will be back in time to be hung with more of Pam's garden-themed art quilts in the Sandisfield Arts Center from May 22 until June 27. Last fall she was the featured artist at a show in Westminster, Vermont, where she also taught a workshop on this style of quilting.

Her quilts are inspired by her gardens, and many feature woodland plants.

Pam has been a resident of Monterey for fifteen years and has been a member of the Monterey Piecemakers since they formed to make a quilt celebrating Monterey's 150th birthday. Since then the group has made many quilts that have been raffled or auctioned to benefit local charities.



Anne Sanford Legacy Fund Scholarship Applications

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set May 15 as the deadline to apply for scholarships from the Anne Sanford Legacy Fund. This fund provides scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$1500 to enable women to attend political or professional leadership training programs. The fund was established by *The Women's Times* to honor the memory of Anne Sanford, a pioneering businesswoman and community activist, who for ten years served *The Women's Times* as a consultant and sales director.

Applicants must be women of 18 years or older currently living or working in the Berkshire Taconic region (Berkshire County, northwest Litchfield County, Columbia and northeast Dutchess Counties) or in the Pioneer Valley. All women are welcome to apply; women of color and those from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups are especially encouraged to apply. Applications can be found online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers or by calling 413-528-8039. Completed applications must be received at Berkshire Taconic by 5 p.m. on May 15.

A committee of community members with demonstrated expertise in the field of education and leadership development will select the candidates that best meet the vision of the fund based on the combined criteria of quality of the training program; potential impact of the program on the applicant's life and studies/work; and evidence of the applicant's ambition to apply this training.



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Monterey Library Notes

Thank you to all who have been advocating for the libraries in regards to the state budget cuts. Colleen Johnson has been spearheading the Friends of the Monterey Library effort. People have contacted Governor Patrick, Representative Pignatelli, Senator Downing, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Unfortunately, the MBLC voted on April 13 to consolidate all the regions into one—exactly what we feared might happen and the action that will most affect our part of Massachusetts. Legislators have made amendments to the budget restoring the cuts and also requiring at least two regions. There is still time to influence these decision makers. Until the budget is passed and signed and the MBLC has decided how to allocate the funds, we need advocates. If you have a minute, please become a fan on FaceBook of We Love Western Mass Libraries. Both the politicians and commissioners have been heard from on this site—don't be afraid to put them on the spot! The number of fans keeps growing and that is important. The more they have to explain to everyone why they are cutting a most successful program that costs pennies to each taxpayer (the amount last year was \$1.05 for each person in Massachusetts!), the more they should realize the mistake that is being made. Keep up the pressure for the next couple of months as the process unfolds and maybe we can save some of our services.

One service that is ending prematurely is interlibrary loan. CWMARS will continue as is, though the delivery is expected to become more of an issue, but every week it seems there is at least one patron who would like a book that isn't found in Massachusetts. We have gotten books from Oregon, Texas, and even the Library of Congress. This program from the Western Region will end by the time this issue of the *Monterey News* is published. They need time to clean up the loose ends and make sure items have been received and are returned. As of July 1, the plan is for the Quincy Library (just south of Boston) to take over this service. There will be a gap of two months. The Western Region will be training us in how Quincy will want requests and all that other behind-the-scenes stuff. We apologize for this gap in service—it has never been trouble before to go outside of Massachusetts, it is what we do. Of course that was only possible because of the Western Region that has mediated this for almost fifty years.

A preview of the summer says you should reserve the Saturday mornings in July and the beginning of August to bring your children or grandchildren to the library for some wonderful programming, thanks to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Friends of the Monterey Library. Moxie will be reading with beginners on May 8—call for an appointment or just drop by and see how Moxie helps these eager and not so eager readers!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Children's Books at Library

Thanks to their effort and fundraising, the Friends of the Monterey Library obtained a matching grant from the Libri Foundation and Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman, the Monterey Library has 78 new books for children, including the following (come to the library to see them all!):

Remember Pearl Harbor; Thomas B. Allen

Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building; Deborah Hopkinson

Sally Jean the Bicycle Queen; Carl Best

Library Lion; Michelle Knudsen

Jazz on a Saturday Night; Leo And Diane

Dillon

One Thousand Tracings; Lita Judge

Olivia Saves the Circus; Ian Falconer

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed

Apollo 11 on the Moon; Catherine

Thimmesh

Wild Horses; Kelly Milner Halls

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Costeau;

Jennifer Berne

Tuttle's Red Barn; Richard Michelson

Let It Begin Here: Lexington and Concord;

Dennis Brindell Fradin

Ellis Island; Raymond Bial

All Stations Distress: April 15, 1912: The

Day the Titanic Sank; Don Brown

Diary of a Wombat; Jackie French

The Roman Army; Dyan Blacklock

The Schwa Was Here; Neal Shusterman

Mercy Watson Thinks like a Pig; Kate

DeCamillo

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth;

Rochelle Strauss

Magnus at the Fire; Jennifer Armstrong

When Sophie Gets Angry- Really, Really,

Angry; Molly Bang

If You Give a Mouse a Muffin; Laura

Numeroff

If You Take a Mouse to the Movies; Laura

Numeroff

The Moon over Star; Dianna Hutts Aston

Rikki- Tikki- Tavi; Rudyard Kipling

Our Farm; Michael J. Rosen

Invisible Enemies: Stories of Infectious

Disease; Jeanette Farrell

Guys Write for Guys Read; Jon Scieszka

The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen;

M. T. Anderson

Antsy Does Time; Neal Shusterman

Sky Scraper; Lynn Curlee

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Retirement Party for Susan Andersen June 11

Our beloved Monterey School teacher, Susan Andersen, is retiring this June after many, many years of service. There will be a party on Friday, June 11, at 5 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion to honor her. If you are looking for more information, contact Belinda Twing, her coworker, at 644-9730. Belinda is coordinating the details, including a potluck. Please spread the word to any families or individuals who you think may be interested.

There will also be updates on the Friends of Monterey Kindergarten (Monterey, MA) page on Facebook.

Check out Monterey Church Website

We at the church are now keeping the website up to date. It includes a sermon archive with podcasts and a calendar of events happening in the meetinghouse and around Monterey. Check it out: www.montereychurch.org. Please also find us on Facebook: Monterey United Church of Christ. You might "like" us.

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Lake Garfield Needs All the Friends We Can Get!

How fortunate we are in Monterey to have such a jewel of a lake. It gives us an endless array of beautiful scenes, season after season, year after year. It gives us countless opportunities for fun and recreation. It adds value to all the homes in Monterey.

We're writing to ask you to become a 2010 member of the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) and to join us in our mission: to protect and preserve Lake Garfield for the enjoyment of all in Monterey. It takes diligence and funding to accomplish our mission. Your \$35 membership goes a long way. Join at the Special Friend level for \$50, or the Very Special Friend level for \$100, or the Outrageously Special Friend level and name your own dues. You can go to LakeGarfield.org for membership information and forms. Or call me, Hy Rosen, and I'll send you the forms, or bring them to dinner at your house. Call my cell, 917-868-5158, or here in Monterey, 413-528-9090.

Here's how we've put your dues to work in the past:

1. Managing drawdown, the most efficient, chemical-free way to prevent excess weeds from owning our lake: FLG has achieved a longtime goal, partnered with our town and the Conservation Commission.

2. Additional weed control: We stocked the lake with a type of weevil that has a voracious appetite for milfoil, a weed that was choking our ecosystem. It worked

wonders! Milfoil no longer poses a serious threat. We continue to monitor this issue.

3. Weed control on the shores: With matching funds from the town, we conducted a three-year insecticide-free test to control purple loosestrife, a weed that takes over shorelines in such great profusion that nothing else can grow.

4. Water testing. Three times each year, along with a state representative, we test the waters of Lake Garfield for phosphates, oxygen levels, temperature, and other measurements that monitor the health of the lake.

5. We secured inclusion of Lake Garfield in state-funded research pertaining to the spread of the dreaded zebra mussel. Happily, in 2009, Lake Garfield's zebra mussel traps came up empty at the end of the season. Yeah, team! It turns out our pH and calcium content are not very zebra mussel friendly.

6. And don't forget LakeFest, launched by the Friends of Lake Garfield to bring our town together for a joyous day on our wondrous lake. (No fireworks are planned for this year ... unless some angel steps forward with a check for \$6,500.) This year LakeFest will be Saturday, August 14. Jot down the date. (Rain date, the 15th) And while you're jotting, the dates of our summer meetings are June 5, July 10 and August 7, 9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse.

Please visit LakeGarfield.org and become a member or renew your membership. A lake like ours needs an organization like ours to help keep it healthy. Lake Garfield needs all the friends we can get.

— Hy Rosen



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*"it's a beautiful day" someone said
"no!" replied another, looking further
"the trees have lost their leaves
the workers have lost their jobs
the banks have lost their money
the fighters have lost their lives
the heads of states have lost their minds"
"but a baby was born today . . ." I said
"and another sixty-four years ago"
"you're crazy!" they said
meaning me and I agreed
but that's a long story
that begins with a rabbit hook
on the basketball tree
("you killed me, you killed me," he cried)
and ends with a micaceous bean pot
over my head strolling toward the edge
death operating obviously
as the primary metaphor
but you . . . you were born
to hold council with the constellations
to catch fire on the end of a stick
to mine salt from the sea
to point the way with the just pulled rutabaga
to drive the red jalopy up and down the block
and to tell the same ole jokes
over and over
to all the grandchildren
over and over*

— Boney Oscar, 12/09

A Testament of Science

*When I was seventeen, I wrote:
I cannot believe
yet I am a stone Your tear fell upon.

Now, seventy years later,
I know
that Vast Certainty of Light and Love
that fills every atom
of all stones.
I am so grateful!*

— A. O. Howell

Amelia

*I entered her life
not realizing what
A blessing I had bestowed . . .

As time progressed
Grandma
was the name
I came to know . . .

I hold on tight to
memories and her love
surrounding me so . . .

My living angel
took her eternal wings
just a few years ago . . .*

— SAS Phelps

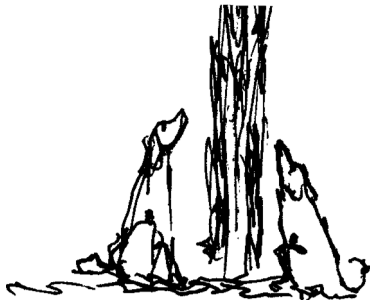


Wildlife Report: Kinglets to Moose, Bobcats to Bobwhites

Early in April Suzanne Sawyer and her family spotted a bald eagle in Hartsville, below Lake Buel. They had a good view of it in a tree and saw it take off, fly, and return. Up on the slopes of Mt. Hunger, Little Norwalk to be exact, Richard and Carole Lucks have been visited through the winter and recently by a "very large porcupine." During the winter they observed it licking salt from the tires of their car.

Just a bit farther west, on Hupi Road, Julie Shapiro and Allan Dean saw big red fox out their new picture window, which looks out to Beartown State Forest, and they saw an otter in the same area, loping along the brook there. This must be their reward for all the work of installing that window.

I went to the Community Dinner on April 21 and learned that BJ Johnson had seen a bear and two cubs by Stevens Lake and Steve Snyder says Amy at Gould Farm spotted two otters at the Rawson Brook



Bridge. Steve himself has seen both common mergansers and hooded mergansers in the beaver pond on the North Road at the New Marlborough end. Steve also saw a barred owl chased by crows and a red-tailed hawk gazing at chickens. On an island in the brook behind Steve's cabin, Canada geese are nesting.

Meanwhile, over in Otis, Elizabeth Maschmeyer has seen a common goldeneye (handsome type of duck) and three bears. The big bear took hold of a hanging suet feeder and carried it off to the riverbank, while the two smaller ones ate birdseed in the yard. Nancy Beach in Monterey has also had a bear visit about 9:30 at night. There was much barking of dogs, circling the pond there, and finally quiet. The folks returned to their movie watching and sometime later the bear returned most quietly and pulled a metal barrel of sunflower seeds, which was inside a wooden holder, off the porch for silent snacking. The folks never heard a thing, but by chance they looked out and were able to get lots of photos. One dog got a long gash, for all that barking and chasing.

George Emmons has seen a pair of mergansers behind the General Store, also woodchucks at the Fish Hatchery and two pileated woodpeckers near the Emmons house on Main Road.

Cindy and Rob Hoogs have their own pileated woodpecker and a bobwhite singing in their field. You might not be familiar with bobwhites—they are little native quail, and the males say "Bob---WHITE!" over and over. The Hoogs also

have admired a large adult male yellow-bellied sapsucker. They say, "Rat-a-tat-tat-tat—tat—tat---tat."

Kate Ryan went birding with a group of eight people on Diane's Trail and Bob's Way. They heard and/or saw many birds. There were six ruby-crowned kinglets, a ruffed grouse, both pine and palm warblers, grackles, chickadees, crows, a hermit thrush, and a domestic turkey in a pen.

Here in East Monterey, Cora Baker spotted a bobcat down in the swath below the David McAllester house. It was creeping along, hunting. When Cora called Russell the dog to her, the bobcat jumped up, and "ran off like a bunny, with that little tail." Russell never saw the cat.

Still farther east, just over the line in Otis, Deena Stearns was sitting contemplatively on a big boulder on the north side of Royal Pond. When she stood up to leave, she saw across the pond a moose calf stand up, and then another calf and the mother. Days later I went to that same boulder where I got the contemplation without the actual moose.

Please call, email, or stop me downtown with your sightings. Many thanks!

— Bonner McAllester (413-528-9385,
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Free Film Saturday, May 15 *The Milagro Beanfield War*

This will be the last film for a while, as we take a break for the summer, giving folks a chance to go farther afield for cultural events around here. We'll start up again in September.

On Saturday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m., come see the 1988 drama *The Milagro Beanfield War*, directed by Robert Redford. It is set in a small New Mexico town where the local people have seen their traditional farming way of life undermined by a sneaky deal made with a big business tycoon, which robs them of their irrigation water.

Joe Mondragon is out of work and unable to farm his father's beanfield because the water is promised to a big-time developer who wants to put in a resort. Finally Joe has had enough and turns the water onto his beanfield. It is an act of defiance, with no particular plan.

Each colorful character in the story responds in her or his own way, and a lively metalworker named Ruby organizes the town. There is the burned-out civil liberties lawyer, the do-gooder college kid from back east, the crazy old woman who pitches pebbles at strangers, and the creepy FBI agent, played by Christopher Walken. There is an old man with a huge pistol and a pig, and there is a certain amount of magic. Also glorious northern New Mexico scenery. There is Ruben Blades as the easy-going mediator, the town sheriff.

This film is timely as we start our own beans in the new Community Garden.

The film, made in 1988 and 128 minutes long, is based on the novel by John



Steve Graves

The South County Cal Ripken rookie baseball team of boys and girls ages 4-7.

Cal Ripkin Baseball Off and Running

Thanks to a mild April, the Cal Ripken baseball team of players 4-7 years old got off to the earliest start on record at Greene Park in Monterey. The team of players from Otis, Monterey, New Marlboro, Great Barrington, and surrounding towns practices and plays games, using tennis balls, every Wednesday through mid-June from 4 to 5pm. New players are welcome anytime during the season. Contact Jim Edelman at 528-0006 for more information.

Nichols (also highly recommended). The musical score won an Oscar in 1989. Information: 528-9385 (Bonner McAllester).

Otis Crafts Fair Accepting Vendor Reservations

The annual Otis Library & Museum Summer Crafts and Country Fair will be held on Saturday, July 10, on the Church Green on route 8 in Otis center from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The cost for vendors to exhibit and sell is \$25 for a 10-foot x 10-foot space. Vendors will need to bring their own tables. Tarps are also recommended in case of rain or harsh sunlight.

To reserve space on a first-come first-serve basis, call Kathy Bort, Lous Hall, or Sandy Balayan at the Otis Library, 413-269-0109, or Anita Weinstein at 413-269-4984.

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David and Goliath in the Desert

Most of us are plugged in and grid-tied, in our electricity use. Even if we somehow manage not to use it at home, we must eventually walk into the dentist's office where I bet the lights are on and the drill is idling. The glasses we wear, the clothing, the methods of long-distance communication we use—there's no way we are not all grid-tied.

Where does this power come from? The sun. Even if we heat with wood, make our own electricity with a water-powered turbine, or put up private windmills, the sun is behind it all. The trouble for us is that, unlike the green plants, we need more than water and sunlight to get along. We have to translate these into food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare if we want the kind of comfort and security we need. To do this we must convert and transport the sun's energy to where we are, where our factories are, and our air conditioners.

Right now out in Arizona an energy transmission project is marching inexorably toward construction. It is being overseen by the BLM, Bureau of Land Management. They like to describe themselves as "your agency" in this project,

as they collect information and make decisions about the multimillion-dollar SunZia project, which will carry electricity from somewhere in New Mexico to Phoenix and points west in California. Population centers there continue to grow and to draw electricity from a system that is already coming up short.

The SunZia project is slathered with "greenwash," claiming to provide a conduit for green energy from New Mexico where a big wind farm could some day

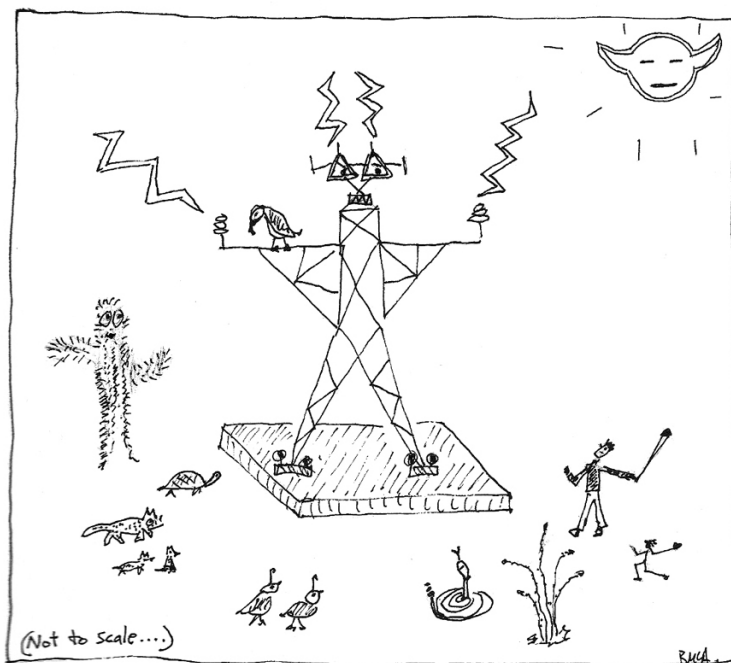
in the "scoping" process, looking for the best way to proceed. There is no question about the rightness of granting SunZia access across state, federal, and private lands. In the name of providing citizens with the sun's energy in the future, the project is going forward. In the name of speculation and huge profits for its investors, it is looking for a route that will be least expensive for building.

The San Pedro River runs north from Mexico through Arizona in one of

the longest undammed riparian systems in the American Southwest. Much of its valley is considered precious and protected; its whole length is an important wildlife corridor. The tributaries run down seasonally through biologically rich Sonoran Desert habitat, providing corridors for coati-mundis, javelinas, coyotes, mule deer, quail, reptiles, amphibians, all sorts of insects, raptors, and an incredible diversity of plant life. This area is also rich in cultural resources, historic sites of the indigenous people and of the more recent settlers.

Opening up this area to the 1,000-foot swath for the

towers will involve road-building and years of traffic. It will be construction machinery at first, but then maintenance access ever afterwards. Huge areas of fragile lands, vulnerable to severe erosion, will be opened for the first time to all terrain vehicles looking for new areas to explore

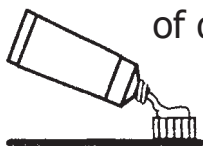


be built to provide clean electricity to the growing western cities.

In fact, there is no big wind farm in New Mexico, no sign of one, no proposals on the table. The only proposal is hundreds of miles of a double line of 160-foot transmission towers, a project currently

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as folks head out for the popular western pastime or recreational sport of motoring through the wild lands, off-road.

Who will look closely at the “rightness” of this project and this route along the San Pedro? A small group of citizens is working overtime to become educated in all aspects of the story. They fit this research, these meetings, this writing and phoning into their already full lives. They are David and SunZia is Goliath. The BLM is the government agency with the authority to approve one route over another, and the Davids are insisting they be heard. They meet with representatives from the groups and agencies involved with the project, they plan carefully and ask informed questions. They have to find their own soils maps because the BLM is not making them readily available, even though it has been tax dollars that paid for the creation of the maps.

The Davids travel to Phoenix to meet with the governor’s people. They hear these encouraging words: “Through the San Pedro? Never. It will never be allowed to go through that valley!” But when they meet with the federal BLM they get the runaround and feel the decision may already have been made, that all

this “scoping” and opportunity for citizen input is just so much lip service.

You might wonder why we should care, way back east here in Monterey. For me it is simple: I use electricity. I know something about the San Pedro valley. I am afraid of the power that huge corporations have everywhere over the health of the planet, afraid of the profit-driven “right decision.” What will I do about it? The Davids in the San Pedro think it might take ten thousand letters to stop Goliath. So I will write mine. I don’t want to see the new roads washing silt into canyon streams where rare minnows live. I don’t like to think about raptors sitting on the towers scanning for endangered desert tortoises, or the yahoos out from town on their ATVs defacing petroglyphs, digging up burial sites, leaving their deep tire tracks on the desert land.

I need the sun’s energy, but I don’t want my use of it to make billions for SunZia by tearing up the San Pedro, or anyplace else. There has to be a way for me to walk into the dentist’s office without being party to such trammeling of the land. There must be a way for a human animal to make a decent living here on earth without wrecking the place, without making fortunes for big-time investors. I am not yet ready to admit I should have been born a green plant!

— Bonner J. McAllester

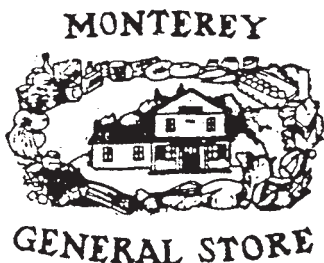
Waste Oil Paint & Motor Oil Collection

On Saturday, May 8, the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) will coordinate a paint and oil collection from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Great Barrington Recycling Center. This collection is for the 16 towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative. Acceptable materials are oil-based paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine, as well as waste motor oil. Advance registration with CET is required.

The towns in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative sponsor this program. The participating towns are Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, and West Stockbridge.

Latex paint will not be accepted. Empty or dried-up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains, and solvents can be disposed with the regular trash as well. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some nonprofits.

To register or for information call CET at 413-445-4556, ext. 10 or 30.



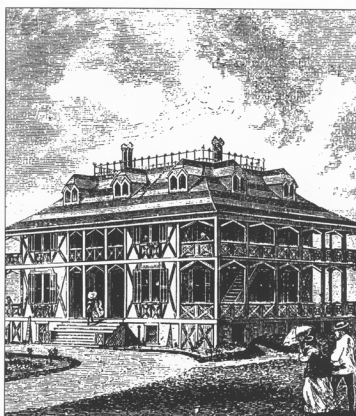
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Aerial Tumbling Ritual of the Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is a powerful flier that soars on thermal convection currents produced by the heat of the sun. The bird glides high overhead, usually at speeds of about forty miles per hour, until it stoops into a sloping dive after prey as fast as ninety miles an hour for a surprise attack.

While it is thought that bald eagles mate for life, if one of a pair dies or disappears, the other will choose a new mate, insuring survival of the species. According to the National Audubon Society publication *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*, the most complex and important social interactions among birds usually take place in connection with reproductive behavior. Bald eagles provide a striking example. Their courtship involves an astounding exhibit of swoops, chases, and cartwheels in which the two fly high, then lock talons and together tumble end over end, not separating until just before they hit the ground, a rare display of brinkmanship. Other species such as ravens also engage in courtship tumbling, but none as dramatic as a pair of eagles.

The bald eagle is a sacred bird in North American cultures such as the Lakota Sioux, whose Sun Dance ceremony employs feathers, talons, and wing bone



whistles, which are believed to have healing and spiritual powers. Native Americans are the only people freely allowed to have any part of the eagle in possession, protected by their First Amendment right to practice their religion. Further south the Choctaw tribe traditionally believed that the bald eagle, because it has direct contact with the upper world of the Sun, is a symbol of peace!

In Greek mythology, Prometheus stole fire from Zeus to give it to mortals

and was punished by being bound to a rock while a great eagle ate his liver. If you believe that, then, like me, you may be grateful that Prometheus played a pivotal role in the early history of humankind by bringing down fire from the Sun, whose light inspires the arts on Earth.

Now as his torch overhead brightens the hills and valleys around Lake Garfield and Lake Buell, a number of other birds are performing mating rituals of their own, such as the ruffed grouse drumming in the woods and the woodcock flitting above the meadows in their flight dance ritual. Most symbolic of all is the apex of the raptor pecking order in the heavens. The eagle is our national bird, proud symbol of America, and since earliest times in our history, for better or for worse, has held a high profile in our patriotic observation.

— George B. Emmons



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Disconnecting to Reconnect

I expected thumb twitches and I feared withdrawal; overall, I anticipated downright panic. Twenty-four hours after I switched off my “crackberry” and got on a plane bound for London, none of the above happened. It never did. I had a UK pay-as-you-go phone, no immediate Internet, and fairly stringent email goals—for me. Other than visiting friends, I went on this vacation in an effort to clear my head and reconnect a bit with myself. It is far easier to do this when you are disconnected and free of the routine tasks in everyday life.

My friends still had work to finish up for the term, dissertations to write, and examinations to study for. I had plenty of time to just roam around London, sip tea (limiting my coffee intake), and exist on a day-to-day agenda. I spent time in my favorite cafes (the owner of one recognized me when I first walked in) and navigating the city streets without a map. *Hairspray* is still playing at the intersection of Shaftsbury and High Holborn, and the London Review of Books still boasts delicious desserts. One afternoon, I played my London playlist on my iPod, and power walked along the South Bank River Walk on the Thames. I paused to take pictures, duck under overhangs at random rainstorms, and browse used books. Some things simply stay the same, predictable, familiar, and unchanging in a world that always offers new adventures and challenges.

I decided to do some “journaling” while I was over there; as a kid I always

used to do this, and now there are many journals under my bed. It has been years since I actually made any attempt to do that on a regular basis, but I bought a composition book for London and wrote in it every day. It is amazing how much one’s style of journaling and self-analysis change in seven years. At home everything is about routine: meals, social life, and my job at Roosevelt Institute Campus Network; in London, it was about wherever the moment took me. It is mind boggling how many places your mind can take you—after a while, you learn to go with it, and in doing so, you really do get to know yourself better.

I found myself asking a lot of questions when I first arrived, bigger philosophical questions of identity, and ones I thought I needed to know the answers to. Then, early on in the trip, I went out to dinner with a friend of mine who was a graduate student at London School of Economics when I was there. After a long conversation that jumped from topic to topic, she looked at me and said, “It sounds like you do know what you want to do, you just haven’t quite realized it yet.” My response was something along the lines of begging her to give me a hint, and she basically told me I had to get there on my own. By the time I left London, I was well on my way to defining what she picked up on in our dialogue.

I realized through a series of conversations and reading Greg Mortenson’s new book, *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, that it might be

about time to truly embrace my passion for education. Being in school for so long and having so much of your life revolve around classes, or even survival, you sometimes forgot exactly who you are and what really makes you tick. I never really formulated goals or ambitions for post-college life. Planning can seem like a waste of time, because sometimes life takes you in unexpected directions; ultimately though, not knowing what you care about, or what you really want from life, can be problematic when faced with making a decision. A framework can prove quite useful.

While I was in London, one of my friends was offered a fantastic job, and then the company called back and told him they made a mistake on their list and called the wrong people. He was absolutely devastated, and I spent the evening with him, giving him a pep talk, and going out to a pub. The next day, the company called him back and told him he had the job—someone in the top five decided not to take it, and he was first on the wait list.

Watching that roller coaster brought a few things home to me personally. Right before I left, my boss told me that she’d love it if I stayed on for a second year at Roosevelt, and I declined to commit before I left. Part of me wanted to know what else was out there, and I wondered if I had finally reached the end of my Roosevelt road. After watching my friend go through all the panicked thoughts that accompany this type of experience, I realized that I am largely happy here and everything is stable, so there is no need to rock the boat.

My first trip to London was its own form of enlightenment, of realizing there was a life to live beyond academics. This second trip was a chance to put everything on pause. I was able to recognize that there were some bigger questions of goals, even identity as a postgraduate, which nagged at me. In the familiar city that I once called home, life again took on new meaning. I came back to Washington with a new sense of purpose and focus. London is no longer the place I had to leave behind, but the place where I can always count on finding the space to grow and change. My friends and memories, past and future, are not a “study abroad experience,” they are truly forever.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Getting to Know Our Gardeners and Farmers

What would we do without other gardeners and farmers for inspiration? The people I want to learn from are right in our community. For the next few months, we can learn together by meeting people in Monterey who grow food for sale or for self-sufficiency. We'll begin by talking to someone whose writing is well known to *Monterey News* readers—Bonner McAlister. She and her husband, Joe Baker, make and sell their own maple syrup, and Bonner grows enough food to feed her family year 'round. We sat in her kitchen on one of those amazingly sunny early spring afternoons recently, and she proceeded to knock my socks off with all the things I didn't know about her!

How did you decide to grow your own food? Did someone in your family do it?

My parents didn't grow food, but my mother loved to grow herbs and flowers. She came from North Carolina, where her family farmed and had kitchen gardens. She found it to be a burden—canning and preserving was so much work. Remember that at that time they did their canning on a wood stove. Her family didn't do it out of choice; they were poor and had to do it. But she loved growing herbs and flowers.

So who influenced you at the start?

My first real influence was my college roommate. JoAnn dropped out of

Antioch but stayed in Yellow Springs, Ohio, to run a community garden. She was my best friend and garden guru. She died last year.

How did you get to Monterey?

My mother's aunt Minnie married a man from Monterey, Clinton Walker Keyes. He was not a farmer, but his father and grandfather were dairy farmers in Monterey, right on Route 23. My mother's aunt adopted her and so she came to live in Monterey as well. As kids we would camp out down by Lake Garfield in a tipi made by Dad. So we knew Monterey from a young age.

Joe and I lived in Wyoming after college. We were given two books as wedding presents that changed our lives, really. One was *Diet for a Small Planet* by Frances Moore Lappe, and the other was Helen and Scott Nearing's *Living the Good Life*. We became concerned about the wisest use of arable land. In 1974, Dad gave us twenty acres of the Monterey land he bought from Aunt Minnie, and we came to Monterey. We lived in a tipi by the brook on our property.

When did you start your first garden?

We cleared land for the garden right away, that first summer. We didn't know

anything about seed companies, but we ordered all our seeds from Burpee and everything came out fine. We worked at Gould Farm and started our seedlings in their greenhouse, which helped enormously. I made my lists and a map of the garden and checked everything with JoAnn. I still remember her telling me that I didn't need twelve hills of cucumbers! JoAnn was in Chicago by then, working on neighborhood gardens. We talked on the phone about gardening for thirty-six years.

How did you design your garden?

We did it on the principle of established beds, like a patchwork quilt. JoAnn suggested that I get one book on gardening and stick with it, and she recommended Rodale's *How to Grow Vegetables and Fruits by the Organic Method*. I still use it, complete with its black and white illustrations and its upside-down cover.

What did you do with all the produce from your garden that first year?

We bought a freezer—before we had a house. We found a level place in the woods, put the freezer on pallets and put a plastic sheet over it. The next year we built a 10-foot by 28-foot storage shed and put the freezer in there. We lived in the storage shed with the freezer for about five years.

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We built it between 1975 and 1979. We bid on a contract to cut red pine in Beartown State Forest. We didn't have any heavy machinery to move the logs into place for our house, so we used ramps and a block and tackle. Joe had worked in carpentry in Wyoming, and we had a good book on building log homes in Alaska.

You must have been very good friends.

Yes, we worked well together. But I would have to say that Joe was the one who was sustained by his vision of the completed house. Some days I just wanted to go swimming.

You said you were vegetarian. What did you think about raising animals?

We started with four chickens and built a shelter for them out of scrap wood. We ate the eggs, and eventually we kept goats when our two daughters were small. They were raised on goat milk.

Did you ever keep bees?

We had bees for years. We gave it up because some of our hives died and we realized that we couldn't give them enough attention. You know, I probably buy a jar of honey twice a year, and we have the maple syrup. One of our daughters just introduced us to demerara sugar from Malawi—it may be our white sugar substitute from now on.

That brings up a big subject. We have a local food movement blossoming in this country. But isn't it also important to support people in developing countries who depend on selling this sugar, for example, for their livelihood?

Eventually we have to recognize that climate justice and social justice are really the same thing. My occasional purchase is not enough, but I know they need the money from this sugar production to build, say, schools.

So which do you think is more successful, buying the sugar or giving the money to an organization to build the school?

I think the best way is for someone to sell their own products and get the money for their efforts. It builds self-reliance. But it is essential to find the right group to support. My favorite is Right Sharing of World Resources, run by the Quakers. Among other projects, they give out small loans to rural women to buy the goats to begin their own goat-milk business. Imagine the satisfaction someone feels when she repays that loan. And her goats were born and raised locally. Right Sharing partners with local self-help community organizations, and they know how to make the best use of local resources.

You devote a great deal of your time to feeding your family even though you have many other interests. You also know what it is like to have a full-time job. What sug-

Otis Cultural Council Annual Tag Sale May 29

Join the Otis Cultural Council's annual tag sale on Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Otis Ridge Ski Slope parking lot (Route 23) (rain date Sunday, May 30). Bring your table, collectibles, furniture and tag sale items, and join your neighbors for a profitable and social event. For an application, go to www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or Otis Town Hall, Route 8. Cost for a table is \$10 for Otis residents, \$15 for nonresidents. Send your check with the application to Otis Cultural Council, PO Box 237, Otis, MA 01253.

gestions would you give someone whose time to garden is limited?

When you grow your own food, it's not just what is in the garden. It's cooking, planning ahead, thinking about what will last in the root cellar. I like to experiment with storage methods like drying, and I keep notes and try new ways to use my produce all year round. But if I had a full-time job I would focus on growing and eating foods in season. That alone would make a huge difference in my family's nutrition and the carbon footprint of our food. And, of course, working outside in the garden is such a pleasure. When I am working there, I like to think about my old friend JoAnn.

— Ruth Green



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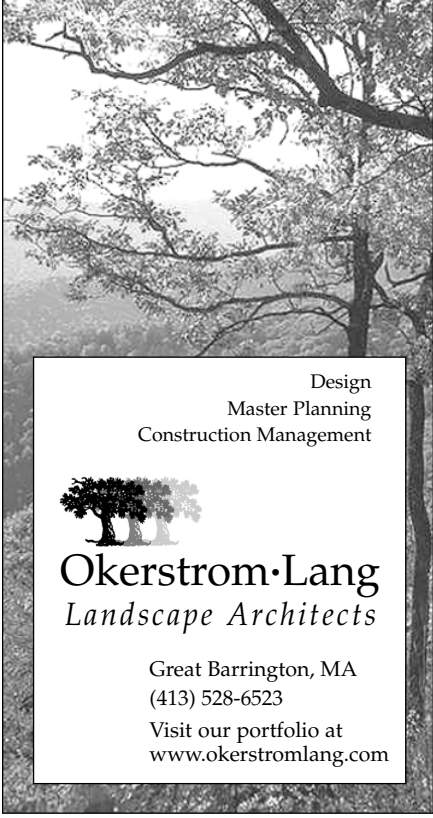


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The Israel Test Revisited

To the Editor:

Seth Kershner's review of *The Israel Test* by George Gilder in the March issue made me hate the book so much that I just had to read it for myself. So I ordered from Amazon. I found that it consists of four parts or themes: racism; capitalism and entrepreneurship; science and technology; Gilder's personal prophesies.

Racism taints an otherwise brilliant treatment of capitalism, bioscience, computers, broadband, medicine, and emerging technologies. Actually, if you are strong enough to get past racism, the book, published only last year, is very interesting.

Unfortunately Seth Kershner, as reviewer, could not get beyond Gilder's repulsive racism, and Kershner let his personal feelings about Palestinian dilemmas and Israel's actions fill much of his review. Gilder is a now about eighty years old and a Protestant who lives in Tyringham. He is known as a most vocal Republican, as Ronald Reagan's major speech writer, and as a forceful advocate for Reaganism supply-side economics. He is a prolific writer, created the Gilder Technology Forum on the Internet, and is a technological advisor to investors.

One of his fifteen books, *Wealth and Poverty*, was a global success. His book *Men and Marriage* was highly provocative and earned him the title "male chauvinist" by a reviewer and *Time*. Louis Comfort

Tiffany is one of his ancestors. His father, a pilot, was killed in World War II. Gilder served for a period in the US Marines.

Strong praise for *The Israel Test* comes from both the left and right, including Rush Limbaugh, Norman Podhoretz, and David Klinghoffer of the *Jerusalem Post*.

But racism is racism and totally unacceptable in today's America. The author doesn't seem to understand that applying biology and genetics to a group evokes Hitler, the tragedy of black slavery, anti-Irish, anti-Chinese, and other infamous American ethnic discriminations. It is hard to understand how a graduate of Exeter and Harvard fails to grasp the role of culture and the impact of discrimination upon any specific group.

Somewhere Gilder developed his fixation and extreme praise about Jewish genetics and talents. This *idée fixe* about race seriously detracts from his eminently readable discussions of capitalism, democracy, and technology. He fails to understand that a culture—a peoplehood—is formed by history, religion, and the restrictions and persecutions it experiences. Neither Christianity nor Islam is defined by heredity or blood or genetics. Gilder recognizes that Jews in Christian countries were restricted to trade and finance. Land could not be owned. Entries into education and professions were rare. Both Christianity and Islam forbade taking interest. Even today, Orthodox Jews may not pay other Jews interest. Islamic banks do not pay interest and instead enter into "partnership proceeds arrangements" which replace interest.

Ergo the rise of Jewish financiers such as the famous House of Rothschild. The US Constitution of 1787 and the 1801 Napolionic Code provided for freedom of religion. But it was left for the twentieth century to open doors for Jews in business and science. It is then we have such mathematicians and scientists as Einstein and von Neumann. In almost every chapter von Neumann is tirelessly idolized by Gilder for his contributions to mathematics, atomic development, the computer, and much of modern technology.

Gilder affirms that financial reforms engineered in 1990 by the United States government broke a twenty-year barren period of technological development in Israel. He cites unprecedented and amazing growth since then and startling advances in many technical fields. He comments again on Jewish IQ. More racism. Unfortunately he didn't know my extended family, which included more than twenty male immigrants and first generation male Americans. While four did become entrepreneurs, I don't think that any of the twenty would fit his constant affirmation of "genius" or high IQ. When my firm became the public relations site for Mensa, I thought of applying for membership. In the 1970s it was known as a social organization for persons with high results on an IQ test that only Mensa gave. But I didn't because I personally believed that taking an IQ test to join was obnoxious, and anyway I probably would fail to meet their IQ standards. So there you go, George Gilder.

— Seymour Richman

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Sunday through October: Softball at Greene Park, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 1: Annual Town Meeting, 9:15 a.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Thursday, May 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 p.m.

Saturday, May 15: *The Milagro Beanfield War*, free movie, 7 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. See p. 17.

Tuesday, May 18: CHP Free Health Screening, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall Meeting Room.

Wednesday, May 19: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program by Center for Peace through Culture. See p. 11.

Saturday, May 22: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Bill Olson. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$8–10, children \$5. Information 528-9385.

Saturday, May 29: Plant Sale, Community Center, New Marlborough Road, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. See p. 7.

Monterberry Festival, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Free evening of enter-

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

tainment and strawberry shortcake, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 6.

Otis Cultural Council Tag Sale, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Otis Ridge Ski, Rte. 23, Otis.

Sunday, May 30: Opening Reception and dedication of Jack Jefferson Memorial Benches, Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road, 3 p.m.

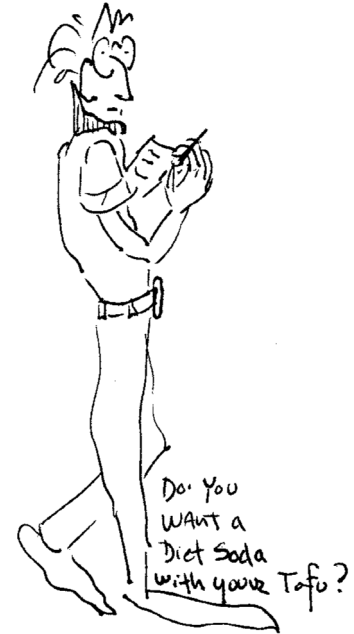
Monday, May 31: Memorial Day, town offices and library closed. Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, 11 a.m.; parade, center of town, 1 p.m.

Bidwell House Museum opens for season. See p. 8.

The Observer

March 26–April 25

High temp. (4/7).....85°
Low temp. (3/27).....16°
Avg. high temp.....59.3°
Avg. low temp.....33.7°
Avg. temp.....46.5°
Total rainfall.....3.47 in.
Rainfall occurred on 17 days.
Trace of snow.



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Contributions from visiting and local artists this month:

David Paul Bacharach, 27; Maureen Banner, pp. 6, 12, 15, 16;

George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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